

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A rod holder assembly with concealed fasteners, said assembly comprising:

an upper flange having a top surface and a lower surface with a centrally disposed opening therethrough, said top surface of said upper flange having a continuous and uninterrupted perimeter edge spaced apart from said opening;

a backing plate securable to said upper flange, said backing plate having a second centrally disposed opening;

a receiving socket having an open upper end coupled to said backing plate and a lower end depending therefrom, said receiving socket constructed and arranged to receive a fishing pole handle;

a means for securing said backing plate to said upper flange;  
and

a liner extending from said upper flange and extending into said receiving socket;

wherein said upper flange is positioned on top of a mounting surface and said backing plate is positioned beneath said mounting surface and fastened to said upper flange.

Claim 2. (Original) The rod holder according to Claim 1 wherein said centrally disposed opening and said receiving socket are tubular shaped.

Claim 3. (Original) The rod holder according to Claim 1 wherein said lower end of said receiving socket is tubular shaped and said upper end of said receiving socket is elongated.

Claim 4. Cancel

Claim 5. (Original) The rod holder according to Claim 1 including a stop member positioned in said lower end of said receiving socket for engaging the butt of a fishing rod handle.

Claim 6. (Original) The rod holder according to Claim 5 wherein said stop member is rotatable.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The rod holder according to Claim 1 wherein said top surface of said upper flange is ~~highly~~ polished.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The rod holder according to Claim 1 wherein said receiving socket is formed integral to said ~~mounting flange~~ backing plate.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The rod holder according to Claim 1 wherein said receiving socket has a continuous sidewall between said upper end and said lower end, said sidewall having an inner surface dimensioned to approximate said centrally disposed opening of said ~~top~~ upper flange.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The rod holder according to ~~Claim 10~~ Claim 1 wherein said upper flange includes an engagement ~~receptacle~~ lip to frictionally engage an edge of said liner.

Claim 11. The rod holder according to Claim 1 wherein said mounting surface is a boat gunnel.

Claims 12-14 Canceled

Claim 15. (Currently amended) ~~The rod holder according to Claim 12~~ A rod holder assembly with concealed fasteners, said assembly comprising:

an upper flange having a top surface and a lower surface with

a centrally disposed opening therethrough, said upper flange having a perimeter edge spaced apart from said opening;

a backing plate, said backing plate having a second centrally disposed opening;

a tubular shaped receiving socket having an open upper end formed integral to a backing plate and a lower end depending therefrom, said receiving socket securable to said upper flange and constructed and arranged to receive a fishing pole handle;

a stop member positioned in said lower end of said receiving socket for engaging the butt of a fishing rod handle;

a means for securing said backing plate to said upper flange;  
and

a liner extending from said upper flange and extending into said receiving socket;

wherein said upper flange is positioned on top of a gunnel mounting surface and said backing plate is positioned beneath said mounting surface and fastened to said upper flange wherein said upper flange includes at least one fastener boss receptive to a fastener bolt inserted through a slotted aperture in said backing plate, said slotted apertures sized to accommodate mounting surface thickness from about 1/4 inch to about 2 inches.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The rod holder according to Claim ~~12~~ 15 wherein said receiving socket has a continuous sidewall between said upper end and said lower end, said sidewall having an inner surface dimensioned to approximate said centrally disposed opening of said ~~top~~ upper flange.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The rod holder according to Claim ~~12~~ 15 wherein said upper flange includes an engagement ~~receptacle~~ lip to frictionally engage an edge of said liner.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) ~~The rod holder according to Claim 12~~ A rod holder assembly with concealed fasteners, said assembly comprising:

an upper flange having a top surface and a lower surface with a centrally disposed opening therethrough, said upper flange having a perimeter edge spaced apart from said opening;

a backing plate, said backing plate having a second centrally disposed opening;

a tubular shaped receiving socket having an open upper end formed integral to a backing plate and a lower end depending therefrom, said receiving socket securable to said upper flange and constructed and arranged to receive a fishing pole handle;

a stop member positioned in said lower end of said receiving

socket for engaging the butt of a fishing rod handle;

a fastener for securing said backing plate to said upper flange; and

a liner extending from said upper flange and extending into said receiving socket;

wherein said upper flange is positioned on top of a gunnel mounting surface and said backing plate is positioned beneath said mounting surface and fastened to said upper flange wherein said backing plate ~~include~~ includes mounting apertures for securing said receiving socket to the lower surface of the gunnel, wherein removal of said fastener permits removal of said top flange without disturbing said receiving socket.